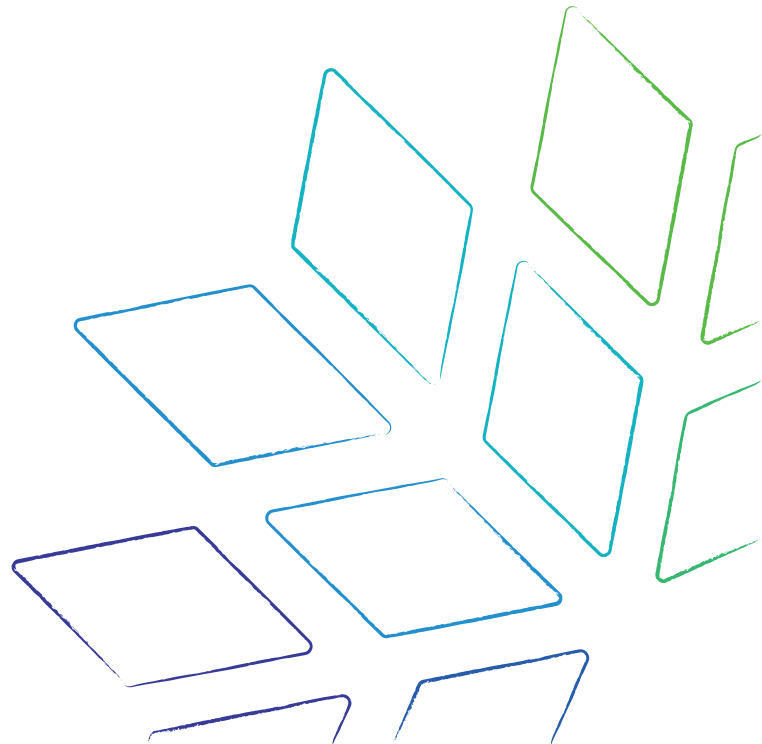
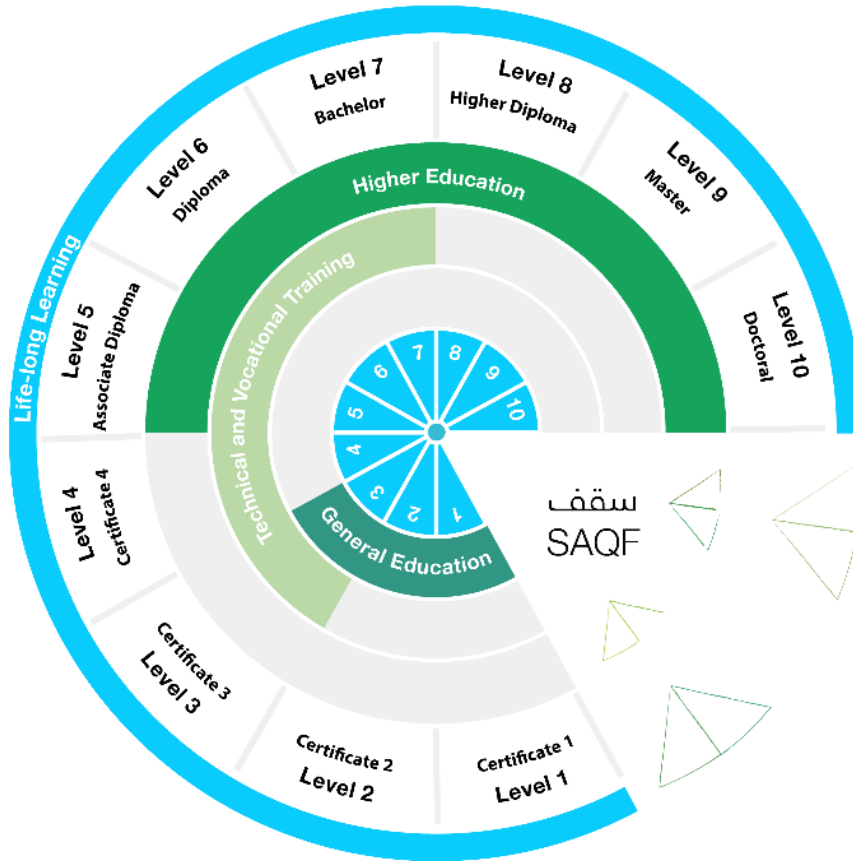


The Saudi Arabian Qualifications Framework Level Descriptors



SAQF Levels



SAQF Level Descriptors

SAQF level descriptors are related to the description of learning outcomes and performance criteria. They are not by themselves learning outcomes that are supposed to be transcribed into qualification specifications. The level descriptors are designed to inform the development of qualifications (especially in terms of complexity and depth of learning) and provide a scheme for comparing and matching learning outcomes and performance criteria.

SAQF level descriptors are defined in a general and neutral language in an attempt to reflect a complex and diverse national education system and to cover all levels, types and purposes of qualification. This approach aims at improving the readability and comparability of qualifications, which helps various stakeholders (especially employers) to better understand qualifications and enables the comparison of qualifications within the KSA education system and internationally.

The following descriptors should be used as reference for the complexity and depth of learning at each of level and do not represent a prescription to write learning outcomes for single qualifications. The design of qualification should first and foremost follow the identified purpose of this qualification. The following descriptors should only be used to determine the level or to adjust the complexity of learning envisaged for each qualification in order to fit the desired level. In an attempt to understand the complexity and depth of a level, the indicators should be not used individually, but together as a whole for each level.

LEVEL 10					
	Knowledge	Skills	Competence	Practice	Attributes
	Theoretical, Factual	Practical Application of Knowledge	Autonomy and Responsibility	Practice	Attributes
Level 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic understanding and expertise of a discipline and methods of research; • Critical analysis and evaluation of complex information, concepts methods and theories necessary to create new knowledge; • Development of new knowledge gained through original research that significantly contributes to a discipline or field of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceiving, designing, and conducting an independent process of research; • Cognitive and technical skills to critically analyze and synthesize complex datasets, information, concepts and theories; • Developing knowledge, designing techniques and revising/modifying processes that result in strategic organizational or professional change and advancing of science and technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing broad independence, judgment and leadership as a practitioner or scholar; • Decision making that delivers a strategic or technological change, innovation and invention; • Assuming a leadership role for the actions of others in addressing and solving complex problems and issues. • Leading in complex professional situations in relation to organizational change or change management; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial original research or work that merits publication and application; • Developing original and innovative responses to professional or organizational issues or problems; • Developing innovative/unique outcomes from critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex areas in professional and academic contexts; • Initiating the advancement of professional practice; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaying professional and academic values in relation to technological, social or cultural advancement; • Aware of ethical and cultural implications of technology and science. • Exhibiting and promoting integrity and ethical practice in relation to research and advancement of knowledge;

LEVEL 9					
Knowledge		Skills	Competence		Attributes
Theoretical, Factual	Practical Application of Knowledge	Autonomy and Responsibility	Practice		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical interpretation and comprehension of knowledge in a discipline or field of work; • Developing or integrating methods and analytical approaches to research that contributes to extending knowledge in a discipline or field of work; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a range of specialized skills, techniques, practices which are informed by forefront developments; • Planning, developing and implementing the research and innovation projects in service or product development; • Utilizing, assessing and critically reviewing a significant range of methods, techniques and practices which are associated with a discipline or field of work; • Integrating a range of knowledge, skills, and strategic planning within a discipline or field of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial autonomy and initiative in professional and academic activities; • Taking responsibility for planning a course of action that initiates or underpins a substantial change or developments; • Independent development and design of new strategic approaches or concepts for development of a discipline or organization; • Leadership role in making an identifiable contribution to change, new thinking or practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolves complex issues in relation to professional codes or practices; • Formulating or creating (innovative) solutions for complex tasks using project management principles; • Capable of strategic, creative and critical thinking to plan a course of action; • Identifying, integrating, defining and investigating new and abstract problems or issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to integrity and ethical practice; • Determination to resolve complex challenges; • Committing to critical analysis of and reflection on new and complex ideas; • Exhibiting awareness of academic and professional practice impact on social and ethical issues. • Receptive to critical challenge. 	
Level 9					

LEVEL 8					
	Knowledge	Skills	Competence		
	Theoretical, Factual	Practical Application of Knowledge	Autonomy and Responsibility	Practice	
				Attributes	
Level 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theoretical knowledge and conceptual understanding that integrates the principal areas of a discipline or work; Specialized knowledge in a subject discipline, profession or a field of work which is based on new concepts; In-depth understanding and analyzing new developments in the subject discipline, profession or field of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select and evaluate theoretical concepts, methodologies, and tools for research and analyses. Innovative and creative practical skills in a subject discipline or field of work; Integrating skills and knowledge from a variety of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating self-reliance and creativity in seeking further knowledge; Taking independent and autonomous actions when acquiring new knowledge and skills in a social, cultural or occupational context; Dealing with professional or academic issues with originality and creativity; Taking responsibility for leading others in achieving strategic performance; Contributing to strategic decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting current professional practice; Evaluating and managing professional work processes, resources or learning; Utilizing a wide range of advanced and specialized skills in support of established practices in a discipline or occupation; Critically defining, conceptualizing, analyzing and evaluating problems and issues in academic and working context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering professional relationships to bring about change, innovation, development or new thinking in a profession or occupation; Adopting academic and professional values and ethics; Self-critical within academic and professional practice; Demonstrating a leadership trait in professional practice; Initiating confident and transparent communication with peers.

LEVEL 7					
	Knowledge	Skills	Competence	Practice	Attributes
	Theoretical, Factual	Practical Application of Knowledge	Autonomy and Responsibility	Practice	Attributes
Level 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad understanding and critical view of the principal theories, concepts and terminology of a discipline or field of work; • Knowledge in a range of different perspectives or schools of thought that underpin the discipline, profession or field of work; • Specialist knowledge informed by current developments of a discipline or field of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying advanced skills, techniques, practices and creativity in specified discipline or field of work; • Practicing routine methods of enquiry, investigation and research for a defined project; • Critically evaluate the approaches and methods to solving problems; • Utilizing well-developed cognitive or technical skills for the analysis and evaluation of complex information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working effectively in peer relationships, under guidance and autonomously; • Taking structured decisions in contexts that require self-directed work, learning and innovation; • Demonstrating the potential for management of complex technical or professional activities and project teams; • Decision-making in unpredictable work or learning contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using theoretical principles for complex tasks in discipline or field of work; • Using advanced techniques for developing solutions to complex problems related to a discipline, profession or field of work; • Utilizing a range of sources to make judgments and decisions; • Analyzing and interpreting information for complex decisions and innovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness relating to the importance of building professional relationships; • Displaying confidence and the potential for leadership and entrepreneurialism; • Being respectful, team oriented and approachable in social and professional contexts; • Developing a personal attitude towards values and ethics.

LEVEL 6				
	Knowledge	Skills	Competence	
	Theoretical, Factual	Practical Application of Knowledge	Autonomy and Responsibility	Practice
Level 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General understanding of the theoretical concepts within the discipline or field of work; • Analytical approach to understanding problems and interpreting information; • Integration of concepts from related fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a range of skills applicable to the discipline or field of work that confirms theoretical understanding; • Adapting and using a range of practical and technical skills in a defined work or learning context; • Using knowledge to foster creativity and innovative practical solutions; • Using methods of investigation to inform actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing and organizing own work in the context of learning or work activities; • Finding and developing arguments within the discipline or the field of work; • Taking responsibility for evaluating own work performance in accordance with predefined standards; • Responsible for own personal development and learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking the lead in implementing agreed plans and activities in familiar or defined contexts; • Planning and organizing new tasks in innovative way. • Managing the implementation of agreed plans; • Utilizing analytical and creative problem-solving techniques.
				Attributes
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaying an awareness of own actions on others; • Being receptive to learning, innovation and feedback for improvement; • Adopting good time management practices; • Taking ownership for own learning and supportive of others.

LEVEL 5									
Knowledge		Skills		Competence					
Theoretical, Factual		Practical Application of Knowledge		Autonomy and Responsibility					
		Practice		Attributes					
<p>Level 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aware of the basic theoretical concepts that underpin the discipline or field of work; • Knowledge of a discipline or a field of work that is informed by relevant literature; • Retrieval and interpretation of information relevant to progress in the discipline or field or work. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying creative solutions to specific problems in a field of work or learning; • Reviewing facts and actions, methods and results; • Transferring existing knowledge to new situations or scenarios; • Practicing skills in both routine and non-routine contexts. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-management within the guidelines of work or learning contexts that are usually predictable; • Supervising the routine tasks of others and taking some responsibility for the improvement of work practices or learning activities; • Responsible for own performance in learning or in an occupational and entrepreneurial context. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a professional approach within a determined area of work or learning; • Analyzing and connecting facts and principles to bring about improvements and innovation; • Using routine technical skills, techniques and practices associated with an occupation or business; • Planning and organizing routine tasks. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuing own work and acting on feedback for further development; • Willingness to participate in communication and open discussions; • Confidence in asking for support in unfamiliar contexts; • Desire to innovate and use new methods and technology to process and obtain a variety of information and data. • Confidence in taking up risks and responsibilities in the entrepreneurial context 	

LEVEL 4									
Knowledge		Skills		Competence					
Theoretical, Factual		Practical Application of Knowledge		Autonomy and Responsibility					
		Practice		Attributes					
<p>Level 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical knowledge of a discipline or field of work; • Knowledge of processes, resources and terminology in a certain discipline or field of work; • Basic practical and theoretical knowledge that will contribute to further learning. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on existing knowledge as a foundation for further learning or work; • Perform calculations for a range of procedures and contexts; • Select and use appropriate tools, resources, procedures and techniques safely; • Relate knowledge to practical contexts and explain or interpret statements, facts, definitions. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited autonomy to undertake further learning; • Carrying out work that is not always defined, with some independence, creativity and responsibility; • Managing own time for tasks; • Illustrating awareness of the impact of own activities and actions; • Works under guidance as a member of a team. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing defined tasks related to learning or an occupation to a given standard; • Using routine practices or techniques associated with a discipline or occupation; • Producing and responding to detailed communication in a range of contexts; • Identifying possibilities for improvement and innovative solutions in routine processes and working practice. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrating creativity and a range of employability attributes to participate in work; • Being communicative in a structured work or learning environment; • Displaying a positive attitude towards others and peers; • Complying with ethical standards. 	

LEVEL 3					
	Knowledge	Skills	Competence	Practice	Attributes
	Theoretical, Factual	Practical Application of Knowledge	Autonomy and Responsibility	Practice	Attributes
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General knowledge applicable to learning or a field of work; • Factual or procedural knowledge specific to learning or a field of work; • Basic knowledge of search and retrieval techniques for information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use general concepts to carry out tasks for a defined area of learning or work; • Obtain information from a range of sources for learning or work; • Apply a variety of communication methods for a specified context in learning or work; • Select appropriate tools and resources for a specific task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for completion of routine tasks in work or learning; • Under supervision, plan, prepare, and organize own learning; • Follows instructions to complete a routine task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing work and tasks that are standardized and relatively transparent; • Using a range of information for working in routine and planned contexts; • Communicating information related to specific tasks in familiar contexts; • Using defined procedures to resolve problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to recognize the need to adapt behavior in new circumstances; • Identifying own strengths and weaknesses relative to work and learning with guidance; • Capability of structured communication in cooperation with peers and superiors; • Positive attitude towards the use of technology; • Able to manage his own time and punctuality.

LEVEL 2					
Knowledge		Skills	Competence	Practice	Attributes
Theoretical, Factual		Practical Application of Knowledge	Autonomy and Responsibility	Practice	Attributes
<p>Level 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic factual knowledge for learning or a field of work; • Knowledge of the types of information relevant to learning or a field of work; • Facts and processes for dealing with defined problems. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow instructions necessary to achieve a task; • Completing well-defined, routine tasks; • Writing and explaining in an understandable form; • Selecting and using simple information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working and learning under known conditions and supervision; • Taking some responsibility (under guidance) for the outcomes of simple activities or tasks; • Meeting task deadlines; • Being aware of the consequences of actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing routine tasks under supervision; • Responding to basic communication for structured tasks and activities; • Following instructions safely while performing a defined task; • Selecting and using basic resources safely with guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrating employability attributes for work etiquette, appropriate dress and hygiene; • Can communicate own emotions to others; • Being respectful during a conversation with others; • Awareness that feedback can support improvement.

LEVEL 1					
Knowledge		Skills	Competence		
Theoretical, Factual	Practical Application of Knowledge	Autonomy and Responsibility	Practice	Attributes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of basic facts and procedures to complete simple tasks; • General foundation knowledge for everyday life; • Memorizing and recalling facts and information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out simple tasks and routine activities in the context of everyday life; • Reading and understanding basic texts; • Using basic resources safely; • Using basic oral and written communication; • Carrying out basic numerical skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working or learning under direct supervision in a structured context; • Using rehearsed processes to complete a task or activities; • Listening and complying with simple instructions; • Carrying out basic planned tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing simple tasks in a controlled environment under supervision; • Using information and basic repetitive skills to perform sequenced tasks; • Responding to instructions in routine situations. • Observe and replicate action, process or activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire to listen and learn; • Cooperative behavior in routine situations; • Demonstrating respect for others in performing tasks; • Showing awareness of basic code of conduct, norms and values in all circumstances. 	



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